



Arizona Biomedical Research Commission

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JANICE K. BREWER, GOVERNOR
WILL HUMBLE, DIRECTOR

ARIZONA BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, August 29, 2013
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Approved on December 12, 2013

Commissioners in Attendance:

David Engelthaler (via phone)
Peter Kelly

Iman Hakim – Chair
T. Lon Owen (via phone)

Wade Kartchner (via phone)

ABRC Staff and Visitors:

Carolyn Allen
Tracey Sotelo

Gloria DeShazer
Stacey Zawel

Daniel Powell

1. Call to Order and Verification of Board Quorum

The Arizona Biomedical Research Commission (ABRC) meeting convened via teleconference and at the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), 150 N. 18th Avenue, Conference Room 540A, Phoenix, Arizona, on August 29, 2013.

A quorum being present, Commissioner Iman Hakim called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

2. Discussion and Action Items

a. Discuss and approve ABRC funding direction and grant application priorities.

Tracey Sotelo, Executive Director, provided an overview of the prior funding categories and a brief history on the application process that was utilized by the Commission.

Stacey Zawel, TSI Consulting Partners, Inc. facilitated the discussion for the funding direction and grant application priorities for fiscal year 2014 and 2015. The Commissioners discussed and created three new categories for funding that are specifically designed to prepare and enable awardees to obtain larger federal funding sources and further identify innovative biomedical research designed to improve the health of all Arizonans.

The new categories are:

- Arizona Biomedical Catalyst Award (“ABC”) - The ABC Award is designed to support investigators whose projects were favorably reviewed by a federal granting agency (i.e. NIH, National Science Foundation (“NSF”), or Department of Defense (“DOD”)) but were just outside the respective funding score. The goal of this Grant is to provide funding for the investigator to generate additional, needed data, with the intent to resubmit the Application to the

respective federal granting agency within twelve (12) to eighteen (18) months of receiving the ABC Award. Applications for basic and translational biomedical research projects only will be accepted in this category.

- Arizona Biomedical Investigator Grant (“AZ BIG”) - The AZ BIG is a competitive research grant requiring a rigorous scientific and collaborative approach. Collaboration among investigators could include: within an institution, across institutions, or across disciplines, which will open funding doors through strategic, synergistic partnerships.
- Arizona Biomedical Early Stage Investigator Award (“AZ ESI”) - A new category designed with the Arizona Biosciences Roadmap in mind is the Arizona Biomedical Early Stage Investigator Award is established to help a new investigator generate the preliminary data necessary to apply for a larger federal grant. The investigator must be “new” as defined by federal criteria and have support of a senior mentor who is able to demonstrate the ability to receive past federal funding success. Pairing a senior mentor will help bring up researchers and retain them here in Arizona.

Other areas discussed were:

- Commissioners may not be named as an applicant, a mentor, or a collaborator on a grant proposal.
- Commissioners will recuse themselves from voting on proposals submitted by an investigator(s) from their own institution.
- The ABRC Evaluation Committee review will follow the scientific review completed through the peer review process.
- The goal of the ABRC Evaluation Committee is to:
 - Evaluate the peer-reviewed proposals.
 - Identify those proposals meeting the strategic goals of the Commission.
 - Determine which applications meet the “impact Arizona” criteria.
- The ABRC Evaluation process must be transparent and needs to meet procurement requirements.
- Any ABRC Evaluation process needs to be reviewed with and approved by procurement.

Further discussion, comments, and voting on the new categories will occur at the next meeting.

3. Call to the Public

A call to the public was made. No public members addressed the Commission.

4. Next meeting date

September 10, 2013 at 9:00 a.m.

5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.